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3 December 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT: Report on Trip to USAFE,
28 November -- 3 December 1956,
Part I.

1. In accordance with instructions from General Cabell given me on Saturday morning, 24 November, and submitted for your concurrence that afternoon, I proceeded to Wiesbaden with Colonel Macia and Colonel Cabas of the Air Force Wednesday afternoon, 28 November. The purpose of the trip, from the Air Force point of view, was to explain to USAFE the agreement which was reached by General Cabell and General Lewis on Saturday morning, 24 November, which related to the form and conditions which must apply if the Air Force is to establish a [redacted] for tactical purposes.

2. On my return on Monday, 3 December, I learned that you had gone to Cambridge and believing that it was important that General Cabell know what follows promptly, I reported to him as follows that afternoon.

a. Colonel Steakly stated on Saturday morning to General Holsapple, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations/USAFE, that the position which USAFE was taking and which Colonel Macia would carry back to Washington would be as follows:

That USAFE would be willing to carry out either Plan One or Plan Two as instructed from Headquarters but would definitely prefer and recommend Plan Two. Plan One is the plan stated in the agreed paper between General Lewis and General Cabell. Plan Two would involve no change in location or procedure of the [redacted] except that an Air Force officer would be put in [redacted]

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USAF review(s) completed.

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charge in lieu of [] It was fully understood that in that case logistical support of the unit would fall on the Air Force, which they would accomplish, and that in addition to their own officers a provision would be made for the inclusion of Army, Navy, and CIA personnel on agreed basis.

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b. I made clear to those with whom I consulted at Wiesbaden that my role was one of seeking to be helpful in working out this problem and to interpret the interests, responsibilities, and views of the Agency on various matters as occasion called for. When asked, I also stated that it was my understanding that subsequent to this visit the initiative for a new development, with regard to [] and vis-a-vis the Agency, rested with the Air Force.

c. In the course of my private conversations with Macia and Cabas at Wiesbaden, I queried whether the way might not be cleared for a sensible solution to the problem which in my view was Plan Two if General Cabell at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner made clear to Air Force authorities that it had been and was the policy []

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[] to meet an emergency situation involving the prompt processing and PI of AQUATONE product for tactical purposes, but that we had no desire as a matter of policy to develop a permanent capability for field recce tech work. I stated that I had finally gathered that uncertainty on this point seemed to be the occasion for our current troubles with the Air Force in this area. He and Cabas both agreed that this was the crux of the matter although Macia urged that in so far as General Cabell might carry out the notion described above his, Macia's, name should not be attached thereto.

d. Immediate upon my return Monday afternoon, I talked to Art Lundahl and felt him out on whether indeed he had as an objective []

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[] He replied in the negative, and he further stated he thought Plan Two was workable. In this connection, I reported the remarkably fine way in which the mixed group under nominal Air Force leadership at Wiesbaden was proceeding and indicated that apart from some small misunderstandings they had worked together very effectively.

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3. Upon conclusion of my report as above to General Cabell, he indicated that he saw no difficulty with Plan Two and queried whether the occasion for his clarifying our policy with regard to field recce tech units should await an approach from the Air Force or should come otherwise. I stated that in my view it could come in either way, but I felt, in the interests of time and clarification so that we could get on with the job, I would recommend his taking the initiative with the Air Force authorities as promptly as possible in an appropriate manner as he saw fit.

4. General Cabell stated that because of upcoming discussions on Wednesday between General Twining, yourself, and General Cabell that it would probably help if this could be gotten out of the way prior to that. He, accordingly, requested that I report to you, as I am now doing, and that he would want to know your view urgently.

5. I will submit the rest of my report in a separate memorandum labeled "Part II".

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JAMES Q. REBER
Intelligence Requirements Officer

JQR:cr

- 1-Project Director
- 2-Deputy Project Director
- 3-Director of Operations
- 4-Chief/HTA and DD/I-
- 5-Director of Materiel
- 6-file
- 7-

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